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[Statement for OLC - Unclassified]

Since World War II open foreign-language information sources (newspapers, periodicals, books) of interest to U. S. Government departments and agencies have grown to a point beyond the capability of any single agency to handle the information explosion with staff personnel. Therefore, in 1957, the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), using hundreds of free-lance contract translators, was established as a translation service for the U.S. Government. JPRS was organized as a component of the Department of Commerce which was responsible for the advertisement, sale and distribution of JPRS reports to a worldwide subscribership.

JPRS responds to the translation requirements of all Government agencies, but over the past several years the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), which is specifically charged with collection of information from foreign-language press and radio sources, has become the single largest user of JPRS services. In the interests of more effective coordination and management of the translation and distribution of foreign press and radio information to the Government and the public, JPRS was administratively transferred from the management of Department of Commerce to that of FBIS on (date). FBIS is a component of the Central Intelligence Agency.